

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
GAME COMMISSIONERS

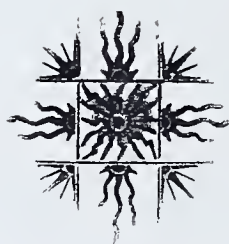
OF THE  
State of Pennsylvania,

ALSO A REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF GAME PROTECTOR  
TO THE COMMISSION

FOR  
THE YEAR 1907.

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HARRISBURG, PA.:  
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# REPORT

## OF THE

# BOARD OF GAME COMMISSIONERS.

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To His Excellency, Edwin S. Stuart, Governor of Pennsylvania:

Sir: In compliance with the law of this State, we hereby respectfully submit to you our report of the work done through and under our direction during the year intervening between December first, 1906, and December first, 1907; and that you may more thoroughly understand the situation attach hereto and make a part of this paper the Report of our Secretary to us for the same period.

From what we have been able to gather from personal observations and from written reports, we feel satisfied that song and insectivorous birds are rapidly increasing in the State, chiefly because the people are beginning to realize the value of the life work of each one of these birds, and are making their influence felt in every community. Game birds have not been as plentiful during the last season as heretofore, notwithstanding the promised increase because of the many birds left over the year before. We find the same condition existing throughout the entire United States and even in Canada, where ruffed grouse are found; and are unable to arrive at any definite solution of the problem or to give any conclusive reason for existing conditions. Quail and wild-turkey appear to have suffered throughout the northern states, where they are located, in the same manner. From the evidence at our command we are led to believe that a great proportion, at least, of the trouble was caused by the unseasonable weather; and that altogether it was caused by something over which we had no control. We find that a fair number of our native game birds, wild-turkey, ruffed grouse and quail, are still found in this State, and hope for better returns next year.

We reiterate the assertion repeatedly made in our reports, that the presence of many unnaturalized foreign born residents within our borders, and their disposition to use guns, legally and illegally,

is a constant and exceedingly grave menace to the wild life of our State and to the peace of every community wherein these people are found. From the evidence brought to us through our efforts to unravel the mystery surrounding the murder of some of our officers and to punish those implicated, we are satisfied that many of the foreigners who come into this State, and especially the Italian, were criminals in their own country and have brought with them into this country the same disposition to violate the law, they possessed in their own land; and that they are cemented and protected by the same organization that in their own land assisted and shielded them in their defiance of the law. We believe that this is a growing and increasing evil in this State. We believe that the bill introduced in the session of the Legislature at our instance, to take away from this class of people the right to carry arms publicly in this State, was a step in the right direction, and deeply regret its defeat.

We are informed that there is in certain sections of the State considerable dissatisfaction regarding the early opening of the game season as fixed by late laws; that when our next Legislature convenes there will possibly be an effort made to secure a uniform game season in Pennsylvania, making the season for all game open upon the same day and close upon the same day. This, in our opinion, would be a move in the right direction, if it can be accomplished, and if it could be arranged to the satisfaction of the several interested sections of the State. Anything that may be done in this direction will receive the support of the Game Commission, excepting an effort to extend the open season into that time, when snow covers the ground, during which time we feel that all birds and animals should be given peace and rest, rather than to be persecuted or driven from point to point. As a Commission we have no fault to find at this time with the law, and will refrain from making any recommendations we may have upon the subject of additional law until our next report.

Respectfully yours,

JAMES H. WORDEN,

President.

W. HEYWOOD MYERS,

C. K. SOBER,

JNO. M. PHILLIPS,

C. B. PENROSE,

FRANK G. HARRIS.

REPORT  
OF THE  
CHIEF GAME PROTECTOR  
TO THE  
GAME COMMISSION  
OF THE  
STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR 1907.

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Harrisburg, Pa., January 2, 1908.

To the Honorable, Board of Game Commissioners of Pennsylvania:

Gentlemen: I herewith submit my report to you, of the work done personally, and by those under my direction, during the time intervening between December first, 1906, and December first, 1907. This report considers only the work done by this Commission through its officers.

WILD BIRDS OTHER THAN GAME BIRDS.

I am satisfied that all wild birds other than game birds have been very materially increased during the past year and that we had many more Summer birds in Pennsylvania during the past season, than for many years. The shooting of this class of birds by small boys, and their persecution through the robbing of nests by the same class, has, to a very great extent, been done away with. Not only because the small boy fears the punishment that very frequently follows depredations of this character, but because he has learned and is learning the worth of birds, and derives a pleasure through the protection, and care, and study of birds, that far exceeds the pleasure he derives through their destruction. Many of our people other than the small boy are taking an interest in this subject, that in my opinion portends much good to our birds.

GAME BIRDS.

Of our game birds my report will not be found so flattering. While we have in this State a fair number of non-migratory game birds, such as the ruffed grouse, the quail and the wild turkey, and enough



with good conditions surrounding breeding next year to make these birds fairly plentiful. We have not had anything like the number of birds of these kinds, that I hoped we would have, basing my hopes and calculations on the large number of birds left over at the close of last season, which I believe was in number in the neighborhood of the very best showing this State could have made at the beginning of any season for many years prior to that time. The same conditions appear to have existed throughout the greater part of the United States, and the same scarcity seems to be reported from the different sections this Fall. Numerous reasons have been advanced in explanation of these existing conditions. Hawks, owls, foxes, wild-cats, house-cats, cholera, lice, woodticks, cold wet weather during the Spring months, with unheard of and unknown diseases which killed our birds on the nests and turned the albumen of the eggs into water, have been advanced. I have, through the officers of this Commission and friends of game and wildbird protection, located in almost every section of the State, as well as by personal efforts, attempted to collect data that would justify a rational opinion upon this subject and am satisfied from the evidence at my command that the greater part of the trouble arose from the cold wet weather experienced during the months when all of these birds should have been laying and hatching, and its continuance through the few weeks following the turning out of young birds, is more responsible than any other cause for this condition.

In some sections of the State ruffed grouse were found in coveys fairly numerous. While in other sections, there were no young birds at all. The latter condition apparently covering a greater part of the State. In my travels through the woods this Fall I came across a fair number of old grouse. I found them on the broad flat tops of the mountains and on the rough hill sides, and not in the deep valleys and along the waterways where they have usually been found at that time of the year. I found food, such as acorns, winter-green berries, huckle-berries and wild grapes on the ground in unprecedented quantities. I found the plume of the shumac full and plenty, with birch shoots and sprouts everywhere. I, of course, recognize the fact that there are less old birds now, than there was at this time last year, because of the slaughter made by foxes, and wild-cats, and house-cats, and vermin generally, as well as by unlawful killing by hunters.

Still I feel that there is a goodly supply of old birds left, that will surely replenish depleted covers within a year or so, if the battle against vermin and wasteful hunting is continued systematically. The killing of game by hunters through the use of machine guns or in excessive numbers, is bad enough, but is nothing when compared

with the endless slaughter, day and night, week in and week out, during the entire year, by predatory birds and beasts. What I have said of the ruffed grouse will also apply to the wild-turkey.

### BOUNTY LAW.

In my opinion the appropriation made by the last session of the Legislature for the payment of bounties upon certain animals is money well applied. The only trouble being, as I see it, that the appropriation is not sufficient to meet demands, and that the list of animals as named in the act is not comprehensive enough. If it is just to place a bounty on the fox this list should have added to it at least the house-cat, than which there is no greater destroyer of bird life in the world; and the two birds known as the great horned owl and the goshawk, the distinguishable features of which are so evident that it is absolutely impossible to mistake either of them for any other birds.

### QUAIL.

What I have said about the grouse and the wild-turkey applies to our quail, so far as it goes, but does not entirely cover his conditions and needs. While the turkey and the grouse may be able to battle successfully with the snows and storms and to subsist fairly well from food gathering in the tree tops, the quail is not able to do this and is doomed to collect his food upon the ground or to die. A battle for a month or six weeks in the snow cannot fail to reduce the weight of this little bird fully one-third. Follow this with a day or so of cold rain, follow this again with a freeze, and one sees the end of Bobwhite. Wet and bedraggled, with no food in his stomach, he is quickly chilled to the bone and the end of his journey reached. There seems to me to be no alternative. Recognizing this condition and the very great value of the quail to every community and to every individual in this Commonwealth, to the sportsmen through the benefit of recreation, and to every other person through the value of its life work, I have made a special effort in behalf of the quail; and have sent out to every person to whom we sent the pamphlet containing the game, fish and forestry laws a circular letter entitled "Save Our Birds," a copy of which is herewith attached. We have also mailed this circular to many of the newspapers in the State; secured the promise of Prof. Surface, the State Economic Zoologist, to mention the subject in his monthly bulletin, and also the promise of the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture to bring this subject before the different Institutes that may be held throughout the State this Fall. We are certainly doing much for the protection and preservation of quail at this time, more than was ever attempted before in this State and hope for good results. We have, this Fall, many more quail than last year at the same time.

## MIGRATORY BIRDS.

Migratory birds, such as the woodcock and snipe of various kinds, have not appeared to be as plentiful during the last spring and last fall as in former years. In my opinion they are rapidly passing, as did the wild pigeon to absolute extinction. Harrassed and pursued, driven from post to pillar, from August to May, from Maine and the Provinces to Florida and even into South America, there is no alternative, unless the National Government extends the protection of its strong arm to this bird, and to ducks and geese as well, and to all other migratory birds, through the enactment of stringent National laws and the education of the people along correct lines.

## RABBITS AND SQUIRRELS.

Rabbits and squirrels appear to have been found in about the usual numbers, plentiful in some sections, while they were scarce in others. In some sections of the State there has been quite a protest raised over the opening of the rabbit season on the fifteenth day of October, or fifteen days earlier than it was opened prior to last year. A peculiar feature of this situation is that these protests come from highly cultivated districts of the State, rather than the wild districts and from those sections of the State where the farmer desires to kill rabbits at all times in protection or defence of his property. The two positions seem to be slightly inconsistent. What the result will be I cannot say.

## DEER AND BEAR.

Deer and bear are increasing rapidly. When the bill proposing to limit the killing of deer to, a male deer with horns and which afterwards became law, was first introduced, I was opposed to the measure, as I was during the year 1904, at which time in my report to you, I stated my reasons for opposing a bill of this kind. I thought that if a measure of this kind became law, it would be very apt to result in trouble to many men who otherwise intended to be honest. That because of the very thick under-brush found in the deer territory, the high bracken and rough country, it would be almost impossible to determine the sex of a deer until the deer had been killed. I preferred the making of an absolute closed season for deer, if protection to that extent was found to be necessary, and I at once began a canvass of the Senate and House of Representatives relative to these matters. I also consulted many sportsmen and other men, who were in the habit of going into the woods during the deer season, regarding their thought upon the subject, and found that almost without exception, the bird hunters, the rabbit hunters, the lumbermen, the land-owners, and the people generally who desired



to go into the woods during the last two weeks in November, including many deer hunters, favored the passage of this measure. They argued that they, as citizens of this Commonwealth, had just as much right to be in the woods at that time, as had the deer hunter, and that under the then existing law there was not one moment of all that time when the life of any one of them was safe. They claimed that they, as human beings, were just as much entitled to protection as were deer. I found from statistics gathered by the Biological Survey at Washington, that forty-eight men had been killed and one hundred and four wounded within the United States by deer hunters during the open season of 1906. I, therefore, refrained from opposing this bill before the Legislature and urged the Governor to sign it, when it came before him. I am now satisfied this is one of the best measures ever placed upon the books of Pennsylvania, and consider that we have very many more honest hunters in Pennsylvania than those who are interested in the slaughter of deer would have us believe. I feel certain that no more deer have lost their lives in violation of law since the passage of this act, than would have been killed illegally during the same period had there been an absolute close season. Some does have been killed, but nothing like the number I anticipated. I am confident the great majority of hunters respect this law. I know from personal experience and from conversation with deer hunters in different parts of the State, that the lives of numbers of bucks were spared through the inability of the hunter to see the horns in time, and that hundreds of does were spared. It is, of course, a new idea and very trying to deer hunters in this State to hold their fire, when a fine doe or a deer of any description stands in front of them. Yet this was almost invariably done, and the deer hunters of this State are entitled to credit for so doing. Some few violated the law, some by mistake, some deliberately. Some have already been punished, and more will be made to pay the penalty before the coming of next season. From data collected I am satisfied that the number of bucks killed this year did not exceed one-fourth of the number of deer killed during the Fall of 1906; and would not exceed two-thirds of the number of bucks killed during that season. I met many hunters who had seen does and young deer this year, but who failed to see a buck with horns. I saw several who saw bucks, but who failed to shoot because the deer had disappeared about the time they decided to a certainty upon the sex of the deer. The great majority of deer hunters I have met this Fall, both during the season and since that time, although frequently disappointed in not securing a deer, expressed themselves as satisfied with the law. The feeling of personal security surrounding each one apparently far outweighed

any pleasure they might have derived through the killing of a deer, or any number of deer. I, of course, met some hunters who were violently opposed to this measure, and I noticed that almost without exception the opponents of this law were men whose sole desire was to kill no matter what the result might be to others. Some of them actually giving expression to this sentiment. The number of deer killed in this Commonwealth during 1906 was in the neighborhood of 800. Of this number perhaps 350 were bucks, and the remainder, 450, were does. From positive reports received from several counties, I estimate that not more than 200 bucks were killed this year throughout the entire State, and believe I am within bounds when I say, that not more than 30 does will be found to have lost their lives. I am in receipt of many letters and statements indicating the number of does killed at far above that figure, but have been unable to establish the actual killing of but nine does. If these figures be correct and the same ratio of killing was followed as was last year, we have spared to us 150 bucks and about 420 does, or 570 deer in all. The majority of does give birth to two fawns, so that I think an estimate of one and one-half fawns to a doe for next year would be fair and reasonable. Six hundred and thirty fawns added to 420 does and 150 bucks will give us 1,200 deer to start with next Fall, that we would not have had under the old law. This seems to be a good showing and one that would justify a continuance of this law, were its sole and only object to preserve and increase our deer; but as the chief purpose of this act was the preservation of human life and limb this addition to deer life in the State is only incidental.

*I take pleasure in reporting to you, that I have not, up to this time, heard of the killing or wounding by deer hunters either accidentally or otherwise, of one single individual in Pennsylvania during the past season.* I have heard that in two of our northern central states, Michigan and Minnesota, I think, something like 30 men were killed and more than that number wounded during the same period by deer hunters. This comparison speaks for itself. What the total number of killed or injured in the United States from this cause will aggregate remains to be demonstrated.

I understand that nearly, if not quite as many bear as deer were killed in the State this fall and also that there is considerable feeling in some sections of the State regarding the law giving protection to bear. I find first among these objectors the man who desires to kill everything regardless of consequences. Next appears to come the timid man who believes the fake stories he reads in the newspapers. Next comes the man, whom I think does not understand his subject and who believes the black bear of Pennsylvania to be a fero-

cious and most destructive animal. My own experience and what I have been able to gather from many hunters lead me to believe that this is not the case. The weight of the combined evidence at my hands causes me to consider the bear more timid and shy, than even a deer and satisfies me that upon the approach of human beings it will run more quickly and much further than will a deer or any other wild animal found in our forests. I have yet to meet one individual who would testify under oath that he knew of a single instance in which a black bear had, in this Commonwealth, without provocation attacked or injured human beings. There, of course, are instances where they have been compelled to put up battle for their lives or liberty. An old hen, or a mother grouse, or any little wild bird will defend its young. A rabbit will sometimes bite the hand that it taking it from a box trap. Some bear may kill sheep or pigs. They may destroy some growing crops, but in my opinion the cases are so isolated as to amount to nothing. Some dogs will also kill sheep, and I firmly believe that dogs are really to blame for nine-tenths of the wrongs that are now charged to the bear.

Some years ago I had occasion to collect data relative to the value of sheep killed by dogs in this State. The aggregate from fifty-seven counties in the State, as I remember it, footing up to something like \$65,000 for one year, and in the neighborhood of \$69,000 in another year. There were but few bears in the State at that time and no claim had been made in any instance that bears were to blame. Some of these same counties are now charging the killing of their sheep almost exclusively to the bear. From some of these counties at that time I received word that sheep could not be raised, owing to the depredations of dogs. From one I received word that their dog tax did not begin to meet the claim made for sheep killed by dogs. No one seemed to blame all dogs for the wrongs done by one dog, or to consider the extermination of the entire family of dogs necessary. The sport and recreation derived from hunting bear far exceeds that of hunting deer and the value of the bear, when taken far exceeds the value of the deer.

We have had two or three prosecutions in this State during the last year, since the passage of the law, for the killing of bear contrary to the provisions, wherein the defence of person or property was plead in justification. In one case the defendant swore he was out fox hunting and the bear, without provocation, attacked him, compelling him to shoot in self-defence. The jury acquitted. Since the trial I am in receipt of several letters upon this subject. One man writes, "I can produce several witnesses who say the sons of this man scared the bear from its bed, that they followed on its tracks for some little while and then returned to their home where



they told their father of what they had seen. The father refused to believe the story until he was shown the tracks. A piece of lead water pipe was then cut into pieces and the gun loaded for bear. The animal was followed for about eight hours, when a shot was secured at about seventy-five yards and the bear seriously injured. Night overtaking them, the party returned home, taking up the trial again in the morning and following the same for about five additional hours. When the poor exhausted animal was found behind a log almost unable to rise and was killed in self-defence."

Another, where a man saw a bear in the woods, sent home for his gun, which was brought to him after some considerable time and the bear killed. When arrested he defended upon the ground that a bear had killed some of his sheep at sometime and at some place in that country and although there was no connection of the killing of the sheep with the bear in question, he claimed the right to kill simply because it was a bear. The justice in this case convicted the defendant and the matter is now before the court for adjudication. People have been known to attempt to excuse the killing of chimney swallows and bats, because they were supposed to breed and carry lice and bedbugs. One man near Harrisburg, last spring, killed a dozen or more robins, because he thought the birds were pulling up his cabbage plants. An examination showed the presence of wire worms around each plant in numbers ranging from 15 to 45 by actual count. These worms had destroyed whole rows of plants and whole sections of the patch, according to the character of the ground. The robins were simply casting aside the cut off plants and attempting to reach the wire worms. Yet the Grand Jury of Dauphin county ignored the bill and set this man free.

### THE AUTOMATIC GUN.

The new act forbidding the use of the automatic gun for the purpose of killing game in this Commonwealth seems to be a law in the right place and is a very necessary and beneficial measure. It takes the power to kill out of the hands of many people, who are controlled only by their ability to slaughter. The claim that the daily or weekly bag limit is all that is necessary to secure good results, I know and you know to be a farce. In many instances a measure extremely hard to enforce and one little respected by many hunters. The chief opponent to this bill is the man who has guns of this character to sell and who wants all the profit that can be secured regardless of consequences in the future. There are men in every community, who claim to be gentlemen and sportsmen, who even under present conditions kill everything possible, so long as they see avenues of escape from punishment to them as individuals. The re-



sult of their work in the extermination of game or of injury to coming generations receives no consideration at their hands. For instance I have had reported to me this fall that one man in the neighborhood of Harrisburg had boasted that he had wiped out an entire covey of quail, killing the last bird. This covey was the progeny of the quail imported by the Game Commission at the expense of the State from Alabama; and demonstrates what such men will do when they have the power to do it.

#### GAME PRESERVES.

The three game preserves that have been created under the provisions of the act of 1905, appears to be serving the purpose intended, that of providing a haven of refuge, into which game and birds of all kinds protected by the laws of this Commonwealth can retreat and can find peace and rest at all times. We have carefully guarded these retreats during the past season and I am pleased to say, that I know of no violation of the law relative to these inclosures. Many men who had first opposed the setting apart of these sections under the impression that they would be used as private hunting grounds for politicians and their friends are now satisfied that the provision forbidding any and all men to hunt thereon means just what it says and that the Game Commission will surely see to it, that all offenders, no matter who they may be shall be prosecuted. In my opinion there is no better way of increasing the game conditions in the State than by this method, and I think the number of preserves in the Commonwealth should be increased as rapidly as possible. I am satisfied much better results can be secured through the restocking of areas, such as are now authorized and where absolute protection is given throughout the entire year, than can be secured through breeding parks or preserves, in which game of various kinds might be raised in captivity for later distribution, or through the purchase of game from the outside, or in any other way. I am satisfied that game of almost every variety will breed to better advantage in a wild state than in captivity, and that if it is protected from vermin through the method recommended in the circular "Save Our Birds" before referred to and from man through a conscientious enforcement of the law, a reasonable increase is sure to follow. Inclement and unseasonable weather will of course affect the breeding of game in captivity, quite as much, if not more, than in its wild state, while disease is much more apt to lay its blighting shadows on animals or birds in confinement, than where they are restricted in no way. So far as I have been able to learn, the attempt to rear ruffed grouse or quail in captivity, has not been crowned with any very great success, and that better returns are secured through the methods we have adopted.

## USE OF DOGS IN HUNTING.

I am satisfied that very many more people are taking an interest in athletics and in sports, and game and wild-bird protection, and in hunting, than ever before, and consequently there is a very great increase of ideas upon these subjects. One of the new ideas that is brought to my attention, at least weekly, and I might say almost daily, is the idea that it is entirely wrong to permit the use of dogs of any kind in the hunting of birds, either turkeys, or woodcock, or grouse, or quail, or any other game bird. The originators of this idea claim there would be plenty of birds of these varieties were it not for the sportsmen with dogs. The man who has that idea claims the use of that animal in hunting, especially wild-turkeys, ruffed grouse and quail, as outrageous and just as much a wrong as is the use of dogs in hunting deer. He claims that the dog invariably locates the covey, that would be almost invariably passed by the hunter without a dog, and that through the help of a dog it is possible for the sportsmen to start and kill every bird of a bunch, that has been raised and scattered. Instance after instance is cited where the pot hunter and his dog kills every bird in the bunch, that he may locate, going day after day, if necessary, until that feat is accomplished. The man who uses a dog for this purpose usually advances as his strongest argument in justification, the assertion, that his chief pleasure is in seeing his dog work. He does not care for what he may kill, but does enjoy following and watching his dog, just as many men enjoy driving fast horses, just as many men and women enjoy a day at the races and delight in seeing horses in action. So he derives pleasure from a day afield with his dog. His second reason frequently is that many wounded birds are recovered through the use of a dog, that would otherwise be lost, thus unwittingly admitting the claim of his opponent, that many more birds, wounded or unwounded are discovered through the use of a dog than without one, and that many more birds are bagged because of the dog than would be secured without one. I am at this time simply calling your attention to this subject because I firmly believe that more than one bill will be presented to the next session of the Legislature upon this subject.

## ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW.

I take special pleasure in stating that beyond question the game laws of this Commonwealth are better observed than ever before. Not alone because of the efficiency of our Protectors, the splendid showing of some of whom as made by their monthly reports and recorded in this office, to which I desire to call your attention, but because of the help we are receiving from people not immediately connected with our office.

## STATE CONSTABULARY.

The very greatest help we have had from this direction has come from the State Constabulary, and I desire to here call attention to their efficiency. This force appears to be to a man constantly keeping its eyes open for violations of the law protecting game and wild birds. Every request from this office for help has been promptly honored. Men have been detailed to investigate charges made and to police territories that I found it impossible to cover. Numbers of arrests have been made by the State Constables for violations of the game law, especially among the unnaturalized foreign born element within our borders, who as you know are disposed to be utterly regardless of law on any subject, but who are learning to respect our laws more, because of the splendid work done by this force of Constables than for any other reason. It seems to me that every person in this State truly interested in game and wild-bird protection, and especially the observance of the provisions of section one of the act of June 4th, 1897, that prohibits hunting on Sunday, should insist upon at least the doubling of the number in the ranks of our State Constabulary. In my last year's report I cited the fact that during the year of 1906, fourteen men were shot at, seven shot and four killed by foreigners, with not one of the perpetrators of these outrages punished. I do not at this time know of the wounding of one of our officers during the past year. None have been killed and while some have been shot at the shooting was at long distances, and in my opinion intended more to notify the officer that the pursued was armed and to thus intimidate him, than to injure or to kill. This changed condition in my opinion is largely due to the creation of our State Constabulary and to the unhesitating, determined and persistent pursuit of wrongdoers of all classes, by members of that force. And especially is that the case with the unnaturalized foreign born element. My search after the murderers of some of our protectors has led me into some queer places and brought to my knowledge the fact that many of these people were criminals at home; that they were criminals here, and hesitated in the commission of wrongs and acts of violence only because they feared the strong hand of the law. These people are organized to defend one another, no matter what the offense, still they are learning that the proposition of resisting a State Constable differs somewhat from that of wounding or even killing a poor unfortunate game protector, who had no friends, and whom the Commonwealth refused or neglected to support in his work or to defend. The benefit to this cause, great as it is through the creation of this Department of State Constabulary, is but an item, and a small one at that, when compared with the aggregate of good accomplished by



these men in this Commonwealth; would be pleased to see a detail of at least twenty men of this force quartered in every one of our counties. The expense necessary to the maintenance of such a force would be but slight; after deducting the excessive amounts that are now paid out by almost every county of this Commonwealth as costs in securing the conviction and punishment of people classed as unnaturalized foreigners. Many of whom would not violate any law if they knew punishment was sure to follow.

The work done by the Department of Forestry in the prevention of forest fires and the protection of wild birds and game on the lands of the State deserves favorable mention at my hands. They are surely doing good work.

The game laws, as they now stand, while not perfect seem to me to be reasonably fair and just, and I have no changes or alterations to suggest at this time. I herewith attach photographs of two buildings we have erected as quarters for our guards. The one at Kennedy Park, Clearfield county, and the other at the C. B. Penrose preserve in Clinton county. The men in these camps are not only game protectors, but are also instructed to aid in every way those connected with the Department of Forestry, to fight forest fires, to report injuries to grown timber or any other violation of the rules of that Department.

There were 435 permits issued by the Department of Forestry to men desiring to hunt on State lands during the open season for deer just past, averaging about seven men to the camp, or 3,045 in all. Fully one-half of that many men or 1,522 hunted on the same territory without camping, going from their homes and returning each day, making a total of 4,567 hunters on State lands this Fall. I think it perfectly fair to say that at least an equal number of men hunted for deer during the same time on lands not owned by the State, making a total of not less than 9,000 men who hunted deer in Pennsylvania during the fall just passed. In addition to this more than 100,000 men hunted for small game in this state during the same open season. What the value of this outing may mean to each one of these men I am unable to say. That they consider themselves benefited is proven by the fact that the same men go hunting repeatedly and that in every camp almost you can find the same men that were there last year, and will be told stories of each year's hunt from that camp as it has come and gone for five or ten or twenty or more years. I am satisfied many more men would go hunting if game were plentiful.

We see everywhere play grounds and parks being created or extended, or beautified by the planting of trees and shrubs and flowers, the laying out of walks and drives, the building of bridges and good



roads, the expenditure of tens of thousands of dollars for the purpose of restocking our streams with fish; all kinds of improvements and betterments for the public good, each an incentive to outdoor life, to recreation, to better health, and better citizenship. Why should the State not contribute fairly to the pleasure as well as benefit of its sturdy citizens, who wish to take their recreation in the fields or in the woods with their guns. It seems to me that the State should contribute fairly to this purpose, placing deer and wild-turkeys and other game on State lands adapted to such game, and where none is found to-day. There are vast tracts of State lands of this character to be found; and I feel that at least one preserve should be created or purchased where deer could be bred for distribution throughout the State.

I am informed that there is a splendid game preserve, the exact extent of which I do not know, but in the neighborhood of 700 or more acres, surrounded by a well built, substantial fence, and in which in the neighborhood of 150 or more deer have recently been placed in this State, that is about to be abandoned or destroyed. It seems to me that the Game Commission of Pennsylvania should at least have one plant of this kind, in which they could raise deer for distribution in those sections of the State, where no deer are found at this time; and I would suggest that a committee be at once appointed to investigate this rumor and to arrange for the purchase of this property, if that is possible. It seems to me that this commission and the sportsmen of the State are entitled to that much at the hands of the State. If the recent hunters' license bill as introduced in the last Legislature had been passed, there would have been no trouble, even at this time in buying this property at a reasonable figure. There is every probability that this bill will be passed by the next Legislature, and even if it is not, it seems to me only fair and just that an appropriation should be made for this purpose. I give you this as a matter of information and as a suggestion.

### HIGH POWER GUNS.

I am in receipt of numerous complaints concerning the dangers arising from the use of the high power guns. The arguments being that because of the thick under-growth in Pennsylvania, the hunter is not often able to see game or secure a shot at a greater distance than that at which black powder would be effective, and that, therefore, the use of a high power gun is not necessary. While we have been to a great extent relieved of danger to human life through the passage of the law compelling deer hunters to look before they shoot, there is still serious danger threatened by the use of this

gun, and it should be prohibited in Pennsylvania. I give you this also as a subject under discussion by hunters and one upon which there may possibly be bills presented at the next session of the Legislature.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

I desire to call your attention to a peculiar situation surrounding the financial conditions of this Commission. As you know, during the last administration we had occasion to use money to a very considerable extent,—first, in the defense of one of our men, who had been arrested for murder; and second, in attempting to discover the men who had murdered several of our officers. You understand the situation, so that I need not at this time dwell upon that point any further than to recall to your minds, that Governor Pennypacker directed us to use our utmost endeavor to discover and punish those; who had murdered our officers, and that the method adopted had been passed upon by the Attorney General at that time. We were given to understand that the coming Legislature would surely take care of us from a financial point of view in the matter. Nothing whatever has been done by the State to help us along these lines. The sources from which we derived revenue and hoped to pay these claims, namely, fines, penalties and licenses, has been taken from us and diverted to the use of the Commonwealth. Nothing was appropriated to take the place of this fund for this purpose. Even moneys, that under the then existing law in my opinion surely belongs to this Commission, and to no one else in the State of Pennsylvania; has been taken from us; and we have been deprived of this through the ruling of the State Treasurer of this Commonwealth. For instance, laws prior to the act passed by the last Legislature of 1907, provided that all penalties, where they were collected by a paid officer of this Commission should be returned to the Secretary of the Game Commission, and by him deposited in the State Treasury for the use of the Game Commission. One-half of all penalties collected by other persons than paid officers came to the State Treasury for the same purpose. The law distinctly stated that the State Treasurer should hold the same as a fund separate and apart for the use of the Game Commission, to drawn out only upon warrant signed by the Auditor General and the President of the Board of Game Commissioners. The fact that we were doing a work that would require more than the usual amount of money and at a specified time, caused me to be careful of the fund in the hands of the State Treasurer and to husband it as I thought for the best interests of this Commission, so that when the demand was made we would have a fund from which to pay the claims before mentioned.

I, heretofore, have drawn upon this fund about once in a year. When I attempted to determine the amount that might be in the hands of the State Treasurer this year, I was told that nothing remained in the hands of the State Treasurer to our use, as the same had reverted to the use of the Commonwealth on the first day of June, 1907. The State Treasurer, through his cashier, refused to even give me a statement of the amount that had come to him collected for the use of the Game Commission. In this manner we have again been deprived of a sum of money in an amount I am unable to state. One that was collected under a specific provision of law and deposited with the State Treasurer for the use of the Game Commission. What can be done in this matter I am unable to say.

I desire to call your attention to the increased work in this office, and to the fact that no additional assistance has been secured, and that no increased remuneration, has in any way been advanced to those who do the work. I can cite you numbers of instances wherein clerks in different Departments in this same building, coming in at 9 o'clock and going away at 4 o'clock receive a return of at least \$100 a month, doing little while they are there, while the Assistant Secretary of this Commission, I am satisfied, does more work than two or three of such clerks, and receives less pay than any one of them. This does seem to me to be a wrong that should be righted in some way.

I herewith attach a correct and full statement of our finances, all of which is respectfully submitted.

Secretary of the Board of Game Commissioners.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

From June 1, 1907, to December 1, 1907.

To first quarterly allowance on general appropriation, .....	\$3,000 00
Penalties and costs collected and returned to this office, .....	2,319 05
Certificates and licenses coming to this office, ..	69 00
	<hr/>
	\$5,379 05
By warden services and expenses, .....	\$1,635 61
Office expenses, .....	723 12
Attorney fees, .....	201 00
One-half penalties returned to informers,....	820 00



Amount deposited in State Treasury for use  
of the Commonwealth from penalties and  
costs collected through this office, ..... 1,371 82

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\$4,751 55

Balance on hand December 4, 1907, .... \$627 50

In addition to this there has been paid into the State Treasury  
from fines and penalties and non-resident hunters' licenses, same  
coming through the County Treasurers:

Fines and Penalties, ..... \$487 94

Hunting licenses, non-residents, ..... 663 38

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\$1,151 32

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### PRESERVE ACCOUNT.

The first half of the \$6,000 appropriated to the Game Commission  
has been settled for with the Auditor General and approved by that  
office.

Expenditure of the balance of appropriation.

To warrant on appropriation, ..... \$3,000 00

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\$3,000 00

By purchase of deer, 28@ \$30, ..... \$840 00

Expressage on quail and deer, erection of two  
permanent camps, one at Kennedy Park and  
one at C. B. Penrose Park; labor, supplies  
and maintenance of the three preserves, .... 1,627 11

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\$2,467 11

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Balance on hand of preserve account, ..... \$532 89

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Financial Statement from December 4, 1907, to January 1, 1908.

To balance on hand December 4, ..... \$627 50

Penalties and costs collected and returned to  
this office, ..... 619 52

Licenses, coming to this office, ..... 9 50

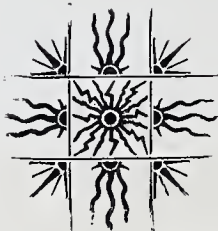
Second quarterly allowance on general appro-  
priation, ..... 3,000 00

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\$4,256 52



By warden services and expenses, .....	\$805 60	
Office expenses, .....	3 76	
Costs returned to defendants, .....	3 00	
One-half penalties returned to informers,....	117 50	
		<hr/>
		\$929 86
		<hr/>
Balance on hand December 31, 1903,....		\$3,326 66
Of this balance on hand there is due the Commonwealth, and which will be deposited in		
The State Treasury, .....		\$463 52
		<hr/>
Balance on hand for use of Game Commission, .....		\$2,863 14
		<hr/> <hr/>



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
GAME COMMISSIONERS

OF THE  
State of Pennsylvania,

ALSO A REPORT OF THE  
CHIEF GAME PROTECTOR  
TO THE COMMISSION

FOR  
THE YEAR 1907.

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HARRISBURG, PA.:  
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